REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The indication that claims 5-8 and 12-17 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claims 6 and 12 have been amended into independent form. Allowance of claims 6-7 and 12-17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 were rejected as anticipated by SCHNEIDER et al. ("An improved method for endothelial cell seeding on polytetrafluoroethylene small caliber vascular grafts," Journal of Vascular Surgery, Vol. 15, No. 4, pages 649-656, April 1992). Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3 and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention is concerned with an intraluminal device for use in a body, and with a coating for such an intraluminal device to improve vascular healing and to prevent thrombosis. In order to minimize thrombosis, the coating comprises a constituent with an anti-thrombogenic effect. To improve vascular healing, the coating further comprises constituents that improve binding of endothelial cells to the coating and constituents that contribute to the binding

properties of the coating. Finally, the coating comprises constituents that improve attachment of the coating to the intraluminal device. For optimal characteristics, the coating according to the invention comprises specific amounts of these constituents.

Because of its effective anti-thrombogenic effect, heparan sulphate prevents forming of thrombosis. In order to minimize thrombosis, the heparan sulphate is the major component (>50%) in the coating. The binding and attachment characteristics of the coating have been found to be sufficient with amounts of Type IV collagen between 0.2% and 15% and amounts of laminin between 1% and 20%. The disclosed amounts result in a coating with an optimal ratio in anti-thrombogenic effect and binding or attachment properties.

SCHNEIDER et al. do not disclose or suggest providing an intraluminal device with a coating that comprises these constituents in these specific amounts. More specific, there is no indication in SCHNEIDER et al. to use heparan sulphate as a major component in the coating.

Furthermore, the present invention, as more precisely defined by amended claim 1, requires use of the glycoproteins entactin (nidogen-1) and nidogen (nidogen-2) to improve the structural integrity of the coating and attachment of endothelial cells thereto. SCHNEIDER et al. do not disclose, nor make it

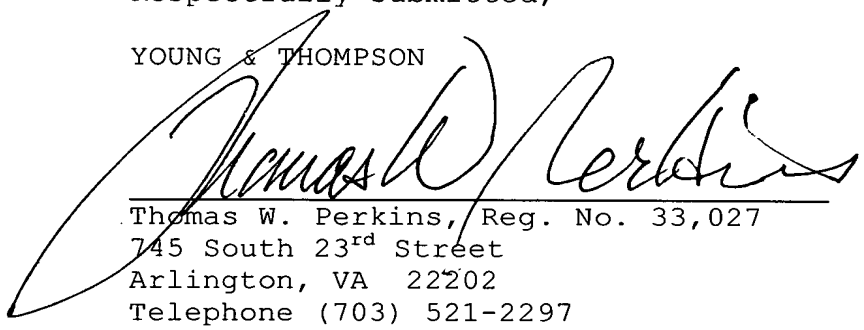
obvious, to use entactin. Therefore, the present invention is deemed both novel and inventive over SCHNEIDER et al.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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